

## The Joy of the Redeemed

### Yesha'ahu 35:1-10

In my last post, we explored **A Prophecy Against the Nations** in **Yesha'ahu 34:1-17**. In this post, we learn of **The Joy of the Redeemed** in **Yesha'ahu 35:1-10**.

Chapter 35 is a mirror image of chapter 34, where **Adonai** announced that He would turn the nations into a wilderness. In chapter 35, He proclaimed that He would transform the people of **Adonai** from a wilderness into a garden. The principle of both chapters is that **Adonai's** people should trust Him, not the nations.

***<sup>1</sup> The desert and the dry land will be glad; the 'Aravah will rejoice and blossom like the lily.***

In Romans 8, **Sha'ul** tells us that all creation is groaning, waiting for the day of redemption. In other words, even the earth realizes it's in a fallen state. But when **Yeshua** comes back, everything will be made right once again.

Recall that **the 'Aravah** is the desert area south of the Dead Sea. Scientists tell us that the deserts on our planet are expanding at an alarming rate. Ten thousand square miles of desert are being added in North Africa alone each year. But when the kingdom comes, the desert shall suddenly rejoice and blossom like a **lily**.

How can this be? It is suggested by some scientists that there will be another shift of the axis. If the earth is made straight again, much of the polar ice caps will melt, adding incredible amounts of water and causing evaporation and the reemergence of a water canopy surrounding the planet. Fossil evidence indicates that the earth at one time was uniformly temperate. Scientists suggest that this could happen again. <sup>1</sup> This is an interesting theory, but I don't think it is connected to "global warming" per se.

***<sup>2</sup> It will burst into flower, will rejoice with joy and singing, will be given the glory of the L'vanon, the splendor of Karmel and the Sharon. They will see the glory of Adonai, the splendor of our God.***

With the elimination of **Edom**, regions north of that land are freed from oppression and are restored to fertility and prosperity. **L'vanon**, **Karmel**, and **Sharon** were regions especially lush in vegetation.

***<sup>3</sup> Strengthen your drooping arms, and steady your tottering knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to the fainthearted, "Be strong and unafraid! Here is your God; He will come with a vengeance; with God's retribution He will come and save you."***

**Adonai** will save His people from the godless nations that oppress them. **Adonai's** retribution refers to the punishment due to the wicked and the reward due to the righteous.

How are we to strengthen people who feel weak or fearful? We are to tell them **Yeshua** is coming back. The way to enhance people - whether yourself or others - is to say, "Fear not. Be strong. **Yeshua** will come and save you."

***<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then the lame man will leap like a deer, and the mute person's tongue will sing. For in the desert, springs will burst forth, streams of water in the 'Aravah; <sup>7</sup> the sandy mirage will become a pool, the thirsty ground springs of water. The haunts where jackals lie down will become a marsh filled with reeds and papyrus.***

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<sup>1</sup> Jon Courson's Application Commentary Old Testament Volume 2.

In the Kingdom, the healing ministry that **Yeshua** began on earth will be gloriously completed. Elsewhere in **Yesha'yahu**, these physical disabilities (**blind**, **deaf**, and **lame**) are metaphors for spiritual shortcomings (29:18; 42:18-19; 43:8). They have been physically dead to godliness, but in the future, they will come alive. Not only will the lame walk, but they will leap like a deer. Not only will the mute speak, but they will sing for joy. A similar transformation is described with the language of nature. The parched ground will flow with water.

***<sup>8</sup> A highway will be there, a way, called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not pass over it, but it will be for those whom He guides - fools will not stray along it.***

In the Kingdom age, the **Way of Holiness** shall be established. Everyone will walk together in love and righteousness as the **Prince of Peace** reigns. Even the most foolish of us will not miss the cutoff or take a wrong turn on this glorious highway of wholeness and rightness.

***<sup>9</sup> No lion or other beast of prey will be there, traveling on it. They will not be found there, but the redeemed will go there.***

**HaSatan** will be bound at this time. Thus, we will not even hear a growl from the roaring **lion** of 1 Kefa 5:8.

***<sup>10</sup> Those ransomed by Adonai will return and come with singing to Tziyon, on their heads will be everlasting joy. They will acquire gladness and joy, while sorrow and sighing will flee.*** ~ Isaiah 35:1-10 (CJB)

The road described in verse 8 will be safe, and it will lead to **Tziyon**, where **Adonai** makes His presence known to His people.

Somewhere we got the mistaken idea that holiness is joyless. Here, however, we see that, as we cruise down the **Way of Holiness, everlasting joy** will replace heaviness and **gladness** will replace sadness.

In my next post, we begin to learn that **The King of Ashur Threatens Yerushalayim in Yesha'yahu 36.**